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Appl. No. 10/688,096
Response Dated June 11, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A wearing article comprising: an elastically stretchable chassis having a front waist region, a rear waist region and a crotch region extending therebetween; and said chassis being composed of a first elastic segment extending substantially along peripheral portions forming leg-holes, from and across a transversely middle zone of said crotch region to lateral portions of said front and rear waist regions so that a transversely opposite inner edge edges of said first elastic segment ~~has a shape~~ have shapes that curve ~~curves~~ transversely outward from a longitudinal central portion to longitudinal opposite ends of said first elastic segment, and a second elastic segment defined by a remaining portion of said chassis which consists of the entire chassis exclusive of ~~except for~~ said first elastic segment wherein said first elastic segment has a stretch stress higher than that of said second elastic segment.

Claim 2 (Original): The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said lateral portions of said front and rear waist regions are releasably engaged with each other to define said waist-hole and said leg-holes.

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Claim 3 (Original): The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said lateral portions of said front and rear waist regions are permanently joined together to define said waist-hole and said leg-holes.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said transversely middle zone of said crotch region is formed on its inner side with an annular protrusion adapted to surround at least one of anus and urethral of a wearer and said first elastic segment extends along said leg-surrounding peripheral portions from said annular protrusion to the respective lateral portions of said front and rear waist regions, said annular protrusion extending upward from the crotch region and terminating at a free distal end.

Claim 5 (Original): The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said first elastic segments formed in said front and rear waist regions become contiguous to each other on said lateral portions of said front and rear waist regions as said front and rear waist regions are joined together along said lateral portions of said waist regions.

Claim 6 (Original): The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said wearing article is one of an open-type disposable diaper, a pull-on disposable diaper, a diaper cover and sanitary shorts.

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Claim 7 (Original): The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said chassis is provided along at least one of a waist-hole's peripheral portion and leg-holes' peripheral portions with an elastic member or elastic members extending outside said first elastic segment along said peripheral portion or portions.

Claim 8 (Original): The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said first elastic segment exhibits a stretch stress of 0.25 N/width of 15 mm or higher at a stretch ratio of 15% and a stretch stress of 0.6 N/width of 15 mm at a stretch ratio of 40% and wherein the stretch stress of said first elastic segment is at least 1.5 times of the stretch stress of said second elastic segment.

Claim 9 (Original): The wearing article according to claim 1, wherein said second elastic segment comprises at least a single elastic sheet extending over said front and rear waist region and said crotch region and said first elastic segment is formed by overlying and joining an elastic sheet to said single elastic sheet forming said second elastic segment.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): The wearing article according to claim 9, wherein said elastic sheet to be overlaid and joined to said single elastic sheet forming said second elastic segment comprises a pair of sheets extending from said transversely middle zone of said crotch region substantially along said leg-holes' peripheral portions to said lateral portions of said front and rear waist regions, respectively, and describing substantially circular arcs which are convex inward in a

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transverse direction and wherein said pair of sheets are overlapped and joined together in said middle zone of said crotch region.